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22 October 1963

South Vietnam SUMMARY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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GROUP 1
Excluded from
automatic downgrading
and declassification

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THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM
(Information as of 1000 EDT)

1. Foreign correspondents in Saigon report that tension between the Diem regime and US officials in Saigon has reached a level causing alerts and extra guards at the embassy and USIS. The AP said anonymous tips and reports from "normally reliable sources within" the Diem regime resulted last night in the second such alert in four days. One unnamed US official told the AP "It looks as if some kind of war of nerves has started." Some officials indicated they believe there is "real danger," particularly of an attack against USIS.

2. One government-controlled vernacular newspaper greeted the arriving UN observers with a grumbling editorial reminder that the Buddhist issue is an internal affair, that South Vietnam as a nonmember is not subject to UN jurisdiction, and that in Vietnamese eyes "the so-called repression of Buddhism...is insignificant compared with the many violations of human rights in many UN member countries." The newspaper asked "how many negroes have been massacred in the US?"

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4. Saigon appears normal except for troop units drilling for next Saturday's National Day celebrations. Viet Cong terrorists have attempted to disrupt this annual event in the past; to forestall such Communist or other opposition intervention, the regime is taking extra security precautions and continues its roundup of student leaders.

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